subsidized BPL rates, under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana, Government of India provides 35 kg. of foodgrains to each identified family per month @ Rs. 2/- per Kg. for wheat and Rs. 3/- per Kg. of rice which amount to 23% of the economic cost in respect of wheat and 25% of economic cost in respect of rice.

Keeping in view their purchasing power, option has been given to such families to buy foodgrains from Fair Price Shops on weekly bases.

Government of India is also providing 10 Kgs. of foodgrains per person, per month completely free of cost to oldage persons who are destitutes and does not receive any pension.

Government of India also supplies foodgrains at BPL rates to beggar homes, Nari Niketans, Old age homes and orphanages etc. These Institutions are funded by both Central Government and State Governments.

Distribution of Items of Daily use through Fair Price Shops

2680. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a plan to introduce a scheme for regular distribution of 11 items of daily use through Fair Price Shops;

(b) if so, the items which are proposed to be distributed under the scheme;

(c) if not, by when the food items would be distributed through FPSs;

(d) whether these items would be distributed to all families both APL and BPL; and

(e) the amount sanctioned and spent, if any, under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (d) The Government of

India have launched a scheme in July, 2000 envisaging distribution of select elven commodities of daily use namely, Arhar Dal, Gram Dal, Malka Red, Urad Whole, Salt, Tea, Toilet Soaps, Detergent Cake, Exercise Notebooks, Edible Oil and Tooth Paste. The State Governments, however, have the option to choose the items as per their requirements/preferences. According to the scheme, these goods will be made available to the consumers irrespetive of their APL/BPL status, in suitable consumer packs, through the existing public distribution system, the Consumer Cooperatives and the State Civil Supplies Corporations or other agencies as may be decided by the respective State Governments. The National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Ltd. (NCCF), which is the apex body of consumer cooperatives in the country, has been nominated as the nodal agency to implement the scheme.

(e) The scheme does not envisage any financial assistance/subsidy on the part of the Government.

Rotten Rice for Assam

2681. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has decided to send 50 thousand metric tones of rice from its depots in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan to Assam;

(b) whether this rice was procured three-four years ago and found to be rotten;

(c) whether the State Government has opposed this move of sending rotten rice to Assam; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No Sir. FCI has decided to send only a quantity of 13576 tonnes of URS Rice (Rice procured under